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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION  
AND LIMITED GOVERNMENT**

October 12, 2023

Assistant Attorney General Carlos Uriarte  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

**VIA ELECTRONIC EMAIL**

Dear Assistant Attorney General Uriarte,

I write to follow up on my remarks to Attorney General Garland at the September 20, 2023, House Judiciary Committee oversight hearing of the Department of Justice.

As noted during that hearing, I have concerns about whether the Department is doing its utmost to advance its mission of protecting civil rights and the rule of law. These concerns are shared by my constituents, countless advocates, and people who are directly impacted by the federal criminal legal system.

As part of my oversight responsibilities as a Member of the House Judiciary Committee, I respectfully request the Department's written responses to the following questions by November 15.

Please do not hesitate to contact my Office (202-225-2406) if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for providing my Office with this important information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cori Bush".

Cori Bush  
Member of Congress

## QUESTIONS

1. What steps, if any, is the Department taking to lower the overall federal incarceration rate and promote investigations of white collar criminal offenses?
2. What steps has the Department taken to ensure that prosecutors are implementing guidance from the Attorney General regarding mandatory minimum sentences and disparities in the treatment of crack and powder cocaine offenses?
3. Does the Attorney General support the implementation of a national policy to ban prosecutorial misconduct waivers?
4. What efforts is the Department taking to promote alternatives to incarceration and challenge the prison-first culture of federal prosecutors' offices?
5. What steps has the Department taken to support funding for the federal public defender program, given the severe funding cuts arising from the current appropriations cycle?
6. Will the Department commit to sharing data about the rates of federal prosecution within each District, including metrics such as type of offense, and age, race, ethnicity, and gender of the defendant?
7. What are the most recent steps taken by Director Peters to address the rampant issues of abuse and mismanagement at the Bureau of Prisons, which affects both correctional staff and people in custody?
8. What steps, if any, do the Department and Bureau intend to take to decrease the use of solitary confinement in the Bureau?
9. Does the Attorney General agree with President Biden that solitary confinement should be ended?
10. What objections does the Attorney General have to dropping the request for capital punishment in all cases, dismantling the federal death chamber in Indiana, and advocating for the commutation of the sentences of everyone on federal death row, given President Biden's stated intent to end the death penalty?

11. Does the Department have any update regarding the commitments announced by Associate Attorney General Gupta in June 2022 about the implementation of Title VI and the Safe Streets Act?
12. What steps, if any, is the Department taking to ensure that it does not fund predictive policing programs that reinforce discriminatory policing?
13. When will the Department respond to Oversight Committee Democrats' letter from June 2021 about the Memo issued by the Trump Administration's Office of Legal Counsel concerning the Equal Rights Amendment?
14. Is the Department's Civil Rights Division aware of the indictments of opponents of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center (or "Cop City") on charges of domestic terrorism and racketeering?
15. What steps is the Department taking to eliminate race-based disparities in the usage of the risk assessment tool PATTERN?
16. Will the Attorney General commit to further meetings with impacted community members and civil rights organizations to address concerns with the revised Racial Profiling Guidelines?
17. What is the Department's response to the widespread concerns of press freedom groups that prosecuting WikiLeaks publisher Julian Assange would set a precedent allowing any publisher or media organization to be prosecuted under the Espionage Act for engaging in journalistic practices such as speaking with sources, asking for clarification or documentation, and publishing leaked materials received from journalistic sources?